

IDENTIFICATION OF GENERIC CLAIM

In Item 1 of the Official Action, the Examiner stated that no claim is generic. Applicants respectfully disagree, and applicants believe that independent claim 1 is generic in covering at least all of the five embodiments disclosed in the application and illustrated in FIGS. 1-6.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his finding that no claim is generic.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the previously amended ABSTRACT on page 12 with the following rewritten ABSTRACT:

B¹ --An attachment device is provided to attach a distribution device, such as a pump or a valve, onto a neck of a recipient. The attachment device comprises a ring forming a skirt equipped with an attachment structure, such as clip-on heads, designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient. A reception structure is provided to receive the distribution device. An annular plate extends radially inwards from the skirt. The plate is designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal if required. The plate can be moved axially upwards away from the attachment structure by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

B3 --To do this, the present invention proposes an attachment device to attach a distribution device such as a pump or a valve onto a neck of a recipient, said attachment device comprising a ring forming a skirt equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate comprising a lower surface designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal if required, wherein it is possible to move the plate axially upwards away from the attachment means by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck. Advantageously, the plate is connected to the skirt by a deformable flexible connection. Preferentially, the deformable connection has a thin surface in relation to the plate such that the deformation takes place at the connection. According to a practical embodiment, the deformable connection is formed by a peripheral annular recess provided in the plate to reduce the plate surface thickness locally in a circular fashion.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

B3 1. (Twice Amended) 1. (Twice Amended) Attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said

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B3
plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end(42) of the neck (40),
with an inserted seal (3) if required,

characterized in that the plate (102) can be moved axially upwards away from
the attachment means by pressing the plate on the upper end of the neck.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

B4
7. (Twice Amended) Attachment device according to any of claims 2 to 6,
wherein the plate(102) is rigid except for the deformable flexible connection (106).

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

B5
9. (Once Amended) Attachment device according to claim 8, also comprising
a hoop 13 fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

[Please amend claim 10 as follows:]

10. Attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40)
of a recipient (4), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) formed by an
attachment bushing (11) and a reception sleeve [(11)] (12),
- the bushing (11) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to
co-operate with the neck of the recipient,
- a reception sleeve (12) forming reception means (103) designed to receive the
distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the

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receiving means toward the skirt, said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal (3) if required,

B characterized in that the bushing (11) comprises a support flange (111) which extends inwards above the plate (102), elastic means (112) being inserted between the flange and the plate such that it is possible to move the plate (102) axially towards the flange by compressing the elastic means.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

B 16. (Once Amended) Attachment device according to claim 15, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the sleeve (12) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.
